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AM-Coup-Dacko

BY Loic Even

BANGUI, Central African Republic [illegible] President David Dacko of the Central African Republic said today that human flesh had been found in refrigerators at a villa used by ex-Emperor Jean Bedel Bokassa.

But at the same time, the country's new leader told reporters that his remarks yesterday that he would establish relations with South Africa and that Bokassa, now in exile in the Ivory Coast, had been sentenced to death, were "all a great joke."

"You must understand, after all we have been through under Bokassa, we must now relax," he told reporters..."All that was a joke."

(Elsewhere, the new leader's statements had been taken seriously. In Johannesburg, government and business leaders earlier today had welcomed his offer of cooperation.)

Mr Dacko, 49, said today that "pieces of human flesh have been found in the refrigerators in Bokassa's Colongo villa here."

He added that there was no evidence the the former dictator, who ruled this country for 14 years, had eaten human flesh.

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